

Message Text

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SUBJECT: U.N. ASSIGNMENT FOR DR. A. RAMACHANDRAN,
SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. TODAY (JULY 7) HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI, CARRIED A NEWS
ITEM FROM GENEVA ANNOUNCING A UN ASSIGNMENT FOR DR. A. RAMA-
CHANDRAN, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE INDO-U.S. SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY. TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE GENEVA, JULY 6 (REUTER) - DR. ARCOT RAMACHANDRAN
OF INDIA WILL BE APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED
NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT), THE U.N.
ANNOUNCED TODAY. THE STATEMENT SAID UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
KURT WALDHEIM HAD CHOSEN DR. RAMACHANDRAN, 55, AT PRESENT SEC-
RETARY IN THE INDIAN DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
HE REPRESENTED HIS COUNTRY AT THE HABITAT CONFERENCE IN VAN-
COUVER IN 1976. THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDED LAST YEAR
TO SET UP THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AS TO COORDINATE
U.N. ACTIVITIES IN THIS SPHERE. UNQUOTE

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3. COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DR. R.D. DESHPANDE,
DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, DST, CONFIRMED THE
ABOVE NEWS TO SCICOUNS AND SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WANTED TO INSTALL A POLITICIAN OR A CAREER DIPLOMAT IN THIS
POSITION, BUT UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ASKED FOR RAMA-

CHANDRAN. WALDHEIM WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH RAMACHANDRAN'S PERFORMANCE AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON S&T FOR DEVELOPMENT AND AS HABITAT CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE.

4. NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHO WILL REPLACE RAMACHANDRAN. DR. ATMA RAM, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHO IS CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MAY PLAY A ROLE IN RECOMMENDING A REPLACEMENT. SINCE DR. RAMACHANDRAN IS ALSO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, THIS POSITION WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE FILLED. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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